

**TESTIMONY OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE  
BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND FISHERIES AND  
WILDLIFE  
IN SUPPORT OF L.D. 400**

**“An Act To Continue To Permit Persons 70 Years of Age and Older To Hunt with a  
Crossbow”**

SPONSORED BY: Representative: Crafts of Lisbon.

CO-SPONSORED BY: Senator Davis of Piscataquis and Representatives: Black of Wilton, Greenwood of Wales, Hanley of Pittston, Pickett of Dixfield, Reed of Carmel, Short of Pittsfield, Timberlake of Turner, Wood of Sabattus.

**DATE OF HEARING: March 5, 2015**

Good afternoon Senator Davis, Representative Shaw and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I am Andrea Erskine, Deputy Commissioner at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, speaking on behalf of the Department, in support of **L.D. 400.**

L.D. 400 would continue the law that was repealed on January 1, 2015 to allow a person 70 years of age or older to hunt wild birds and wild animals with a crossbow during any open season on that wild bird or wild animal.

Since the enactment of this law, the Department has not seen any significant biological impacts or law enforcement related issues associated with persons 70 years of age or older hunting with a crossbow. Because this has seemed to be positive for senior hunters we would like to recommend that this law continue without the sunset provision. We would, however, like to ask for clarification on whether this includes residents as well as nonresidents?

I would be glad to answer any questions that you might have.